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10 NOVEMBER 1955

NSC BRIEF

## SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN MIDDLE EAST

- I. Soviet action has shifted swiftly to the Middle East as the most dramatic phase of a campaign to penetrate underdeveloped countries all over the world.
- II. Even as Moscow was smiling at West, the Communists were planning arms deals with the Arabs.

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## B. Immediate Soviet objectives are:

1. To nullify Western-sponsored mutual defense structures - the northern tier.
2. Encourage emergence of a neutralist bloc which can bargain with and seek blessing of, both East and

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS

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- C. Indirect benefit to Soviet aims and  
strengthening of Egypt stem from North  
African ferment.
1. Threatens French adherence to Western  
alliance.
  2. Threatens status of US bases in the  
area.
  3. Enhances appeal of neutralism, which  
the USSR supports.

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